



2013 *Health & Wellness* Fair

The 2013 Annual Employee Health & Wellness Fair kicked off successfully Thursday, May 30th beginning at 11 am in the Recreation Building. Eight vendors, including the Bloodmobile from United Blood Services, Web MD and Wal-Mart Eye, to name a few, were present for the three hour event. In addition, a table was set up in hopes of recruiting new members for the Wellness Walking Club.

Approximately 100 employees attended the fair to be screened for blood pressure, blood glucose and to obtain eye examinations. A total of 12 of our staff donated blood, all donning their complimentary totes, with the first 10 collecting coupons for free sandwiches at Dickey's Barbeque Pit. Employees received an ample amount of information regarding health benefits, which proved to be especially useful to those who were able to come out for the affair. The vendors were thrilled to have been a part of this year's health fair and were very pleased with the employee response. Pictured below are a few of our staff acquiring future benefits of health awareness:



Lindsey Butler (Rush) & Darryl Hampton



Harriet Sutton (BCBS) & Gary Dover



Adrian Johnson in Bloodmobile



Lena Patterson & Scott McMullen (AH)

Lauderdale County Council on Aging Fish Fry



Smiling seniors filled the Frank Cochran Center Friday, May 24th at the Lauderdale County Council on Aging's Annual Fish Fry. An earlier start occurred beginning at 11:00 until all plates were gone this year. Musical stylings from Frank Sinatra and the "Cotton-Eyed Joe" as well as several patriotic numbers played in the background at the pre-Memorial Day event by Recreation Department's Billy Davis while everyone dined. Forty-three of the 650+ Meridian's seniors came from the James T. Champion and Reginald P. White Nursing Facilities. When the senior nursing home residents were asked if they were having a good time, many replied with nods and grins stretched across their faces. A portion of the event paid a special tribute to the men and women who serve our country and prizes were awarded to seniors whose names had been drawn.

Mayor Cheri Barry graced the Frank Cochran Center that morning, greeting all who attended and demonstrating her usual vivacity as she hugged the necks of all she came into contact with. Photo opportunities were taken of the mayor with some of our nursing home residents.

A special thank you went out to the 186th Mississippi Air National Guard crew who took time off to prepare the fish, the twenty shipmates from NTTC Meridian and the Good Sams Club for serving the plates and performing the post-event clean-up, as well as countless others who labored at this year's luncheon.



Billy Davis (Recreation)



Christie Smith (Psych. Tech) & Mr. A. McCary



Mr. C. Davidson



Mr. J. Mayo, Mayor Cheri Barry, Mr. W. Walk

JOINT COMMISSION UPDATE

Infection Prevention
Teresa K. Aycock, MSN, RN



The Infection Prevention Committee is tasked with oversight of all areas of the hospital organization with regards to preventing and controlling infections. In preparation for Joint Commission, several of us on this committee were appointed as Infection Prevention-Related Self Assessment Chairpersons in our respective work areas. We have been tediously looking into every aspect of infection prevention and control all over ESMH and its Divisions. Infection prevention is a labor of love that can exist in attention to the smallest details. Something that may begin with a single microscopic organism can grow into a pandemic outbreak responsible for catastrophic death and destruction. We, as Infection Prevention Practitioners, establish policies, develop surveillance programs, maintain records of infections, track positive cultures and organisms, supervise isolation procedures, and tirelessly teach hand hygiene. These are but a few of our duties, however, the *responsibility* of Infection Prevention is the duty of us all. For example, hand hygiene before and between caring for patients, cleaning equipment properly, checking refrigerator temperatures, proper care of food, laundry treatment, appropriate supply handling and delivery, and correct medication management, are just some of the ways we all contribute to infection prevention. The collective goal of all our efforts is to allow those we serve to be treated for their primary illness while we protect them and fellow employees from infections. We show concern for our IRS, our co-workers, and our Maker by doing our best in the spirit of Love. As stated in I Corinthians 13:13, "Now remain these three: faith, hope, and love, but the greatest of these is love."

Leadership Meeting

Charles Carlisle



All eyes were upon Mr. Carlisle Tuesday, May 21st as he enlightened administrative personnel of long range plans for ESMH at the Leadership Meeting. With a one million dollar cut for the 2014 fiscal year, employees were beginning to feel anxious about employment status and the future of ESMH. "No one is losing his or her job—we are simply readjusting", Mr. Carlisle stressed. "We have 1006 employees at this time, which is about where we need to be". To alleviate the sting of the budget cut, all group homes, with the exception of three differing levels of care at Kemper, will be closing. The adult Chemical Dependency Unit will close effective January 1, 2014 and the Friendship Center closed its Adult-Day Program at the end of May this year converting to In-patient Services only. The transition of IRS will need to take place in order that funds may be allocated to critical need areas. It will not be an easy task, but with hard work and dedication of every employee here at ESMH, efficient relocation can be made. When we all work together towards a common goal, the Individuals Receiving Services as well as ESMH staff greatly profit. In essence, positive strides to a better tomorrow will come to fruition one small step at a time.

BIRTHDAYS

1st - Michael Harrington
Warehouse
7th - Rolanda Pace
BASAC
7th - Cherly Clark
Lewis 2
8th - David Gordon
Investigative Services
11th - Cheyenne Dear
BASAC
12th - Rita Brown
Health Records
14th - Dr. Gloria Gomez
Medical Clinic
14th - Stephanie Johnson
Timekeeping
14th - Dr. Kenneth Tye
BASAC
15th - Shonna Dunkerson
Payroll
15th - Chastidi Jennings
Lewis 2

CONGRATULATIONS

March 21-May 23, 2013

Congratulations to the 16 participants of Weight Watchers.
The members of the 10 week class lost a total of 136.2 lbs.!

May 10

James "Michael" Dover, son of Gary (Pastoral Services) & Angie Dover is the recipient of an AA Degree & the 2013 Phil Hardin Scholarship from Meridian Community College.

June 2

John & Lynne (JTC/RPW) Woolley celebrate their 1st wedding anniversary.

June 3

Pamela Blair (Housekeeping) is the winning recipient of 2 North's \$50 Wal-Mart Gas Card

June 15

John & Glenda (Recreation) Slay celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary.



Lynn Garrett recently graduated from the Mississippi Department of Mental Health's (DMH) Focus Program Friday, May 17th at Duncan Gray in Canton. DMH's Accelerated Leadership Development Program "Focus" offers a unique opportunity for employees to hone their skills to greater and higher personal performance and self-awareness.

"Focus is one of the most exciting projects our agency has been involved with," said Ed LeGrand, DMH Executive Director. "This initiative is helping to strengthen our employees and build upon their talents. DMH's mission is to support a better tomorrow today and this is one of our efforts to prepare the leaders of tomorrow."

The goal is to help DMH employees reach maximum capacity and to develop "bench strength" for the agency. This experience challenges participants to grow to new heights in both ability and attitude.

Pictured (l to r) is Lynn Garrett, DMH Focus Graduate & Ed LeGrand, DMH Executive Director.

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